

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A processor-implemented **non-iterative** method of clustering a set of records, each of the records having attribute values for a set of attributes, the method comprising:

for each attribute of the set of attributes, determining a characteristic value for said each attribute, **the characteristic value being one of a mean value and a median value of the based on attribute values of said each attribute;**

~~wherein determining the characteristic value comprises calculating the~~ attribute values of said attribute across the records;

for each attribute value, determining a deviation from the characteristic value of said each attribute;

for each record, sorting the set of attributes based on deviations of the attribute values **from the characteristic value of said each attribute,** to provide a key; and

clustering combining the set of records based on the key into a clustering result that includes a plurality of clusters;

wherein the key comprises an ordered list of the set of attributes and the deviations **from the characteristic value of said each attribute;** and

refining the clustering result by ~~selectively changing a length of the key to change the number of the clusters;~~

identifying a cluster having a smallest number of records;

for each record of the identified cluster, searching another cluster having records with best matching keys; and

distributing the cluster with the smallest number of records to the other cluster having records with best matching keys, to reduce the total number of clusters.

2. Cancelled.

3. Cancelled.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the deviation comprises calculating a difference between said each attribute value and the characteristic value of said each attribute.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the deviation comprises calculating a difference between said each attribute value and the characteristic value of the corresponding attribute, and dividing the difference by the characteristic value of said each attribute.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sorting the set of attributes comprises using absolute values of the deviations of the attribute values as a sorting criterion.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a first record of the set of records contains a first key and a second record of the set of records contains a second key; and
further comprising placing the first key and the second key into a single cluster if the first key and the second key have identical subsequences of a first length.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a first record of the set of records contains a first key and a second record of the set of records contains a second key; and
further comprising placing the first key and the second key into a single cluster if the first key and the second key have identical subsequences of absolute values of the deviations.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a first record of the set of records contains a first key that has a first sub-sequence, and a second record has a second sub-sequence contains a second key; and
further comprising placing the first key and the second key into a single cluster if the first and second sub-sequences comprise the same set of attributes.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the first and second subsequences comprise the same set of attributes irrespective of a sign of the deviations of the attribute values.
11. Cancelled.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~44~~ 9, further comprising reducing a length of the first sub-sequence and a length of the second sub-sequence in order to find a best match.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising using a distance measure to find another cluster for a record of the identified cluster.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the distance measure comprises a Euclidean distance.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product having executable instruction codes that are stored on a computer-readable medium, for non-iterative clustering of a set of records, each of the records having attribute values for a set of attributes, the computer program product comprising:

a set of instruction codes, which, for each attribute of the set of attributes, determines a characteristic value for said each attribute, the characteristic value being one of a mean value and a media value of the ~~based on attribute values of said each attribute;~~

~~wherein the characteristic value is calculated from the~~ attribute values of said attribute across the records;

a set of instruction codes, which, for each attribute value, determines a deviation from the characteristic value of said each attribute from the characteristic value of said each attribute;

a set on instruction codes, which, for each record, sorts the set of attributes based on deviations of the attribute values, to provide a key; and

a set of instruction codes for clustering combining the set of records based on the key into a clustering result that includes a plurality of clusters;

wherein the key comprises an ordered list of the set of attributes and the deviations from the characteristic value of said each attribute; and

a set of instruction codes for refining the clustering result by ~~selectively changing a length of the key to change the number of the clusters;~~

identifying a cluster having a smallest number of records;

for each record of the identified cluster, searching another cluster having records with best matching keys; and

distributing the cluster with the smallest number of records to the other cluster having records with best matching keys, to reduce the total number of clusters.

16. Cancelled.

17. Cancelled.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the set of instruction codes for determining the deviation from the characteristic value determines the deviation by calculating a difference between said each attribute value and the characteristic value of said each attribute.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the set of instruction codes for determining the deviation from the characteristic value determines the deviation by calculating a difference between said each attribute value and the characteristic value of the corresponding attribute, and by dividing the difference by the characteristic value of said each attribute.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the set of instruction codes for sorting the set of attributes sorts the set of attributes using absolute values of the deviations of the attribute values as a sorting criterion.

21. (Currently Amended) A processor-implemented system for non-iterative clustering of a set of records, each of the records having attribute values for a set of attributes, the system comprising:

each attribute of the set of attributes comprising a characteristic value for said each attribute, the characteristic value being one of a mean value and a media value of the based on attribute values of said each attribute;

~~wherein the characteristic value is calculated from the~~ attribute values of said attribute across the records;

each attribute value comprising a deviation from the characteristic value of said each attribute;

each record comprising the set of attributes based on deviations of the attribute values from the characteristic value of said each attribute, to provide a key; and

wherein the set of records are ~~clustered~~ combined based on the key into a clustering result ~~into a clustering result~~ that includes a plurality of clusters;

wherein the key comprises an ordered list of the set of attributes and the deviations from the characteristic value of said each attribute; and

means for refining the clustering result by ~~selectively changing a length of the key to change the number of the clusters;~~

identifying a cluster having a smallest number of records;

for each record of the identified cluster, searching another cluster having records with best matching keys; and

distributing the cluster with the smallest number of records to the other cluster having records with best matching keys, to reduce the total number of clusters.

22. Cancelled.

23. Cancelled.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the deviation is calculated as a difference between said each attribute value and the characteristic value of said each attribute.

25. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the deviation is determined by calculating a difference between said each attribute value and the characteristic value of the corresponding attribute, and by dividing the difference by the characteristic value of said each attribute.

26. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the set of attributes is sorted using absolute values of the deviations of the attribute values as a sorting criterion.